

● AUGUST 2023

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS



SRNS Today

Welcoming the future workforce
High-performing interns join the ranks of SRNS employees



SCAN ME
to connect with
our social media

This month

Deactivation activities lead to cost savings • New hires learn safety • NNSA and DOE leaders tour



Dennis Carr

SRNS President and CEO

On the cover

SRNS Internship Program students sign and accept their full-time position offers at the Savannah River Site with support from SRNS executives, managers and mentors who aided in their success.

Welcome

to the August 2023 edition of

SRNS Today

It is my honor to be writing my first introduction letter to SRNS Today as President and CEO of SRNS, and I am humbled and privileged to lead this great organization.

SRNS held its first ever Intern “Signing Day,” allowing nearly 50 high-performing and qualified summer interns to join SRNS with full-service employment. These interns will bolster our workforce and help fill employment gaps now and in the future. SRNS also graduated its largest production operator apprentice class to date—the first class that was a joint venture with other SRS contractors. The apprentices will now join the workforce with fundamental training under their belt, better preparing them for their new roles.

Good progress continues to be made at the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility, where SRNS subcontractor Aecon-Wachs has celebrated dismantling and removing equipment and associated commodities from more than 50% of rooms in Building 226-F.

Additionally, SRNS employees continued their tradition of giving as we kicked off the 2023 United Way campaign.

I am grateful to be a part of this workforce and for the opportunity to lead it. I look forward to seeing what is in store for SRNS in the future.



Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell. Since August 2008, SRNS has been the management and operating contractor for the Savannah River Site, a Department of Energy-owned site near Aiken, South Carolina. The SRNS corporate and community offices are located in the renovated 1912 “Old Post Office” building in Aiken. The primary initiatives of SRNS are national security, clean energy and environmental stewardship. SRNS Today is published monthly by SRNS Corporate Communications to inform our employees and other stakeholders of the company’s operational- and community-related activities. If you have questions or comments, please contact us at 803.952.6131 or visit our website.

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COMMON ACRONYMS

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) • Savannah River Site (SRS) • Department of Energy (DOE)
National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) • Central Savannah River Area (CSRA)



Legacy facilities in the Savannah River Site's F Area, including the F Canyon Chemical Separations Facility and the F Area Analytical Laboratories, are undergoing deactivation.

SRS pivots deactivation activities in legacy facilities, resulting in cost savings

SRNS employees recently reevaluated their deactivation plans for legacy facilities in the Site's F Area location, leading to a change in direction that will result in significant cost savings.

F Area is home to several legacy nuclear facilities and support buildings that are no longer used for processing nuclear material, including the F Canyon Chemical Separations facility and the F Area Analytical Laboratory facilities. It also includes Building 235-F, which was used to process plutonium used in space exploration. The area is undergoing cleanup and closure in part to make room for the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF) and to contribute to meeting DOE's footprint reduction mission.

Three legacy buildings in F Area are currently undergoing deactivation activities. Two of these buildings were home to the F Area Analytical Laboratories—the capabilities of which were moved to another location at SRS in 2020. The third building is home to the chiller plant, which provides the chilled water needed for conditioned air (either heated or cooled air depending on the season) to the laboratory buildings.

"The initial plan was to deactivate these buildings by individual zones—specific areas of the buildings and grounds—to reach final end state objectives, or endpoints, identified in the deactivation plan," said Trey Gilland, SRNS Laboratory Deactivation Project Manager. "The plan was to deactivate the high hazard/highly contaminated zones first, working our way out to the lower hazard/lower contamination zones. Steam and water services were going to be isolated at the end of the deactivation project to provide conditioned air until all deactivation activities inside the buildings were complete; however, it was recognized earlier this year that we could eliminate substantial utility costs in the near term by isolating steam and water services early."

SRNS will have deactivated most of the radiological areas in the F Area Laboratory buildings by the end of Fiscal Year (FY)23, so the deactivation team began looking at ways to save steam costs and apply that savings to future deactivation activities.

"Instead of the deactivation by zone concept, we looked at individual endpoints required to isolate steam to the buildings and identified 36 endpoints that need to be completed before we can move to unconditioned air," Project Engineer Jack Musall said. "We can complete deactivation of the remaining zones/endpoints without conditioned air, so we pivoted the schedule for FY24 and FY25 to transition to unconditioned air in all three buildings, the first building completing in FY24 and the remaining two in FY25. This will result in annual savings in steam costs," Gilland added.

Once deactivation of the 36 endpoints identified is complete, the Project Team will return to its original plan of deactivating by zones. The end result of deactivation of these facilities will be the removal of hazards to make the facility safe and stable and the reduction of surveillance and maintenance costs.

"SRNS employees are committed to continuous improvement and to being good stewards of taxpayer money," said Dennis Carr. "This change in direction goes to prove the flexibility and ingenuity of our workforce and their ability to get the job done."

SRS considers legacy facilities as those that were used for past missions in nuclear materials. Many of these buildings were originally constructed at the Site's founding in the 1950s. The purpose of these facilities during that time addressed the national security needs of the country. It is fitting that the cleanup of these legacy buildings allows F Area to focus once again on national security with the construction of SRPPF.

EC&ACP works with core team to keep the environment clean

Environmental cleanup activities have been ongoing at SRS under a Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) since 1993.

SRNS Environmental Compliance and Area Completion Projects (EC&ACP) recently finalized a comprehensive upgrade to the EC&ACP Regulatory Document Handbook.

This was a two-year collaborative endeavor between a Core Team comprised of representatives from the Department of Energy (DOE) and regulatory agencies including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) with decision-making authority for the SRS Environmental Cleanup Program.

The EC&ACP Regulatory Document Handbook provides the Core Team and supporting project teams with guidance for the evaluation of SRS waste units and facilities. Since the early 2000s, the EC&ACP Regulatory Document Handbook has been employed successfully at SRS to clean up over 400 waste sites.

Over 20 years later, subject matter experts from each agency and multiple disciplines teamed up with SRS again to update the handbook, incorporating new industry guidance and lessons learned from the past two decades. These updates were approved by the regulatory agencies in June 2023, proving that the handbook continues to be a vital and powerful tool for streamlining the efficient implementation of the FFA cleanup program.

DOE Federal Facility Agreement Program Manager Brian Hennessey said, "This Regulatory Document Handbook is our anchor. These formats and technical protocols set SRS apart and will continue to streamline assessment and decision making here under the FFA for many years, keeping SRS the most focused, collaborative and successful cleanup project at any federal facility that I know."

Technical protocols and document formats contained in this handbook are used by DOE to evaluate waste units and facilities for decommissioning to prepare project scoping materials and regulatory documentation. They are employed by the EPA and SCDHEC to scope and review environmental cleanup projects and support remedial decisions.

"The EC&ACP Regulatory Handbook provides program-level agreements so that baseline steps do not require renegotiation on individual environmental cleanup projects, saving both time and resources," said Dena Brett, EC&ACP Regulatory Technical Liaison. "Working with our state and federal regulators to establish these technical protocols and document formats promotes trust between the agencies and the SRS environmental cleanup program. We hope this collaborative spirit continues for many years to come."

New hires immersed in safety culture

With the influx of new employees to SRNS, ensuring employees are trained to navigate and adapt to the strong safety culture and practices of the Site is more important than ever.

SRNS Health and Safety has initiated a new hire safety briefing course for employees who have worked at the Site for at least 60 days. These four-hour courses, offered monthly, are designed to provide new employees with training on standard SRS safety expectations, along with opportunities to ask any questions they may have thus far.

"As a new Safety professional at SRNS, I am impressed with culture and values surrounding safety for all at SRS. The new hire safety orientation shows commitment at the highest levels of the organization for health and safety for all on-site," said Eddie Goff, SRNS Principal Safety and Health Specialist.

Goff added, "Statistically, employees with less than three years' experience are most susceptible to safety-related incidents. The safety orientation program is an extra step and level of effort [that] I have never witnessed in my 20 years of experience in the safety profession. This effort ensures an understanding of how business is done, along with what expectations exist when becoming a member of the SRNS family."

New hires learned about the Site's safety history, as well as ways they can engage in safety activities. Employees also participated in a Dynamic Learning Activity where they were paired in groups of two and given a procedure to follow using Human Performance Improvement tools. With error precursors such as unclear directions, time sensitivity, distractions and improper equipment, employees were to identify how to best complete the project.

"It is important for every employee to understand the part they play in our safety culture from the first day they arrive on-site," said Kristin Creed, SRNS Safety and Health Senior Industrial Hygienist. "We have the opportunity to reinforce the basic safety requirements of working at the Site and begin to instill in these new employees the strong safety culture we have sustained for more than 75 years. It takes every individual to maintain a healthy safety culture, which happens through strong leadership, employee engagement and organizational learning."



Mike Conaway, Director Safety, Health and Waste for NNSA, discusses the importance of the Basic Hazard Control Handbook and how employees can prevent injuries both in and out of the workplace.

PECMC employees set safety record

SRNS Breathing and Air Mechanic Donnie Cooper (left) conducts a Behavior Based Safety observation of Maintenance Mechanics Pete Johann (center) and Robbie Jeffords, who are in the process of repairing an SRS truck.

Members of the SRNS Portable Equipment Commodity Management Center (PECMC) Fleet and Fuel Local Safety Improvement Team (LSIT) have submitted at least one Behavior Based Safety (BBS) observation each month for the last eight years; that's nearly 3,000 consecutive days. Safety excellence is not just a concept for these employees; it's a way of life.

"I'm extremely proud of our team," said Shawna McGrady, SRNS Manager, PECMC. "This all started out as a challenge; and now, it's just part of who we are. It's actually becoming easier, over time, to add days to this safety achievement, because we all believe it's important to hold each other accountable—being our brother's keeper."

Brandon Heath, management sponsor for the PECMC Fleet and Fuel LSIT, described an unusual kickoff that seemed to motivate PECMC employees to embrace the challenge of 100% BBS observation participation. At the event, SRNS Tour Coordinator Bob Bonnett, who was a member of the group at the time and chair of their LSIT, boldly stated that he would take a pie in the face from the person whose name was drawn from a container filled with one month's worth of his coworkers' BBS written observations.

"He got the pie in the face and got the ball rolling, as well. PECMC's starting date towards achieving an incredible safety record began with Bob," said Heath. "Actions often speak louder than words."

Heath, who is also the PECMC Maintenance Manager, said that the last preventable injury involved a hand, 13 years ago. "Keep

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**Shawna McGrady,
SRNS Manager,
Portable Equipment Commodity Management Center**

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in mind, they're working with or repairing heavy equipment nearly every day."

"So, I brag on them all the time," said McGrady. "They are amazing. In fact, one day, I was so moved, I wrote a poem for them about their service with integrity. They laughed, but it came from the heart because they are so dedicated. Whether it's distributing parking lot safety handouts at 5 a.m. or arranging for an electronic bulletin board to slow drivers who often travel too fast between our two buildings, they are ready to take action. That, in itself, represents the mindset of our people and the safety culture they continually support and share with others."

PECMC provides property accountability while maximizing equipment utilization by providing safe, reliable and cost-effective heavy and light portable equipment to multiple organizations across the Site.

SRPPF craft workers celebrate D&R milestone



SRNS subcontractors Aecon-Wachs and Capital Energy Group (CEG) celebrated reaching a significant progress completion milestone for Dismantle and Removal (D&R) work at the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF) this summer.

An employee appreciation luncheon was held to celebrate the completion of the dismantlement and removal of equipment and commodities from the third floor of M-Wing in Building 226-F, also known as the Main Process Building.

“Aecon-Wachs and CEG have made significant progress on the project,” said Albert Magley Jr., Project Director with Aecon-Wachs. “Our team has dismantled and removed 295 pieces of equipment and associated commodities from more than 50% of rooms in Building 226-F, resulting in over 2.7 million pounds of material being recycled. Aecon-Wachs and Capital Energy Group sincerely appreciate the effort and dedication put forth by our team members.”

“We’re proud of the work our teams have put into the D&R efforts at SRPPF and wanted to recognize them for this achievement,” said Robert Westervett, SRPPF Construction Subcontract Technical Representative Manager. “Our goal is to continue the progress



“Our goal is to continue the progress the team has made, working safely and efficiently to advance construction efforts in support of the Site’s pit production mission.”

Robert Westervett,
SRPPF Construction
Subcontract Technical Representative Manager



the team has made, working safely and efficiently to advance construction efforts in support of the Site’s pit production mission.”

SRPPF is one of two NNSA pit production sites in the nation, with the other located at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Once constructed and operational, SRPPF will produce the bulk of the nation’s supply of plutonium pits in support of sustainable nuclear deterrence.

HEWD Chairman, NNSA and DOE leadership tour SRS

Senior members of NNSA and DOE leadership teams; U.S. Representative Chuck Fleischmann (R-Tenn.), Chairman of the House Appropriations Energy and Water Development (HEWD) Subcommittee; and U.S. Representative Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) were among the visitors who toured SRS on Aug.10.

In addition to Congressmen Fleischmann and Wilson, the group included NNSA officials Dr. Marvin Adams, Deputy Administrator



NNSA and DOE senior leadership; U.S. Representative Chuck Fleischmann, Chairman of the HEWD Subcommittee; and U.S. Representative Joe Wilson were among the visitors who toured SRS on Aug.10.

for Defense Programs (NA-10); Summer Jones, Assistant Deputy Administrator Office of Production Modernization (NA-19); and Nicole Nelson-Jean, Associate Administrator for the Office of Infrastructure (NA-90), as well as Jeff Avery, DOE Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Office of Environmental Management (EM-2), among others.

During the full-day visit, the group toured various locations on-site, including Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE), Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF), Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF), Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) and Savannah River National Lab (SRNL). Participants were briefed on some of NNSA's large-scale projects at the Site, including the Surplus Plutonium Disposition mission, Tritium Modernization and continued construction efforts within SRPPF.

SRTE delivers the nation's only tritium supply for the nuclear stockpile. SRPPF is part of NNSA's two-site strategy between SRS and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to produce the plutonium pits needed for restoring the nation's nuclear weapons modernization program capabilities.

"SRS continues working closely with NNSA and DOE in support of our environmental cleanup and nuclear security missions," said Carr. "As these missions continue to evolve, we are keenly aware of the opportunities and challenges this presents. We appreciate the commitment of key congressional leaders, as well as our colleagues within NNSA and DOE in supporting both the Site's enduring missions and new missions that are vital to national security."

SRSFD responds to Barnwell church fire

On Friday, August 11, the Savannah River Site Fire Department (SRSFD), along with over a hundred firefighters from surrounding areas, responded to a fire that broke out at Hagood Avenue Baptist Church in Barnwell, South Carolina. The fire, believed to have been caused by lightning striking the steeple, took approximately 12 hours to extinguish and left the church with significant damages.

According to SRSFD Battalion Chief Matt Williams, "The SRSFD aerial truck arrived at the church within 18 minutes of dispatch, providing a vital elevated platform to safely ventilate the steep roof of the church and apply large amounts of water for fire attack. In addition, the SRSFD portable breathing air trailer was utilized to refill depleted air cylinders used by the firefighters. Our team provided much-needed manpower during the extremely hot afternoon and evening. Several off-duty SRSFD firefighters who volunteer in Barnwell County also responded to the scene."

SRS has been a part of mutual aid agreements with neighboring fire departments since 1989. Currently, the Site's fire department has seven mutual aid agreements: Aiken County Emergency Services,



Firefighters sprayed down the roof and cut through shingles to get to the fire inside Hagood Avenue Baptist Church in Barnwell, South Carolina.

the Aiken County Fire Department, Allendale and Barnwell Counties in South Carolina, Richmond and Burke Counties in Georgia, and South Carolina State Mobilization.

The Mutual Aid Agreement between SRS and surrounding counties provides the community with ensured response in the event of an incident. Mutual aid is reciprocal for SRS, meaning the SRSFD can also request the help of other local agencies should the Site need additional aid in an emergency.

"The SRSFD is honored to be able to serve our surrounding communities by our long-standing mutual aid agreements," continued Williams. "We were glad that we could offer help to one of our neighboring communities in their time of need."

BRINGING FRESH TALENT TO THE SITE WORKFORCE

Remarkable recruitment



SRNS interns discuss program experiences and findings presented during the 'Farewell and Showcase' event held at the Savannah River Site.

On July 31, the SRNS summer internship program came to an end after the 'Farewell and Showcase' event held at the Site. The program leveraged the "talent pipeline" between universities and open full-time positions at the Site for the benefit of all involved.

"At a time when the market is unpredictable and competition for talent is fierce, SRS is engaging exceptionally gifted individuals as part of our intern program, to transition into our workforce and our surrounding communities," said Carr. "It is crucial that we continue to utilize our intern program, along with our apprenticeship occupations, to fill the needs in our most critical areas."

With over 2,000 applicants this year, the SRNS internship program provides a highly valued opportunity that connects students to real world experiences and a chance to network with industry leaders. Out of the 180 interns that were accepted into the program, 146 were local to South Carolina and Georgia. In July, 50 full-service offers were extended to students who engaged in a variety of disciplines within SRNS.

A rising senior at North Carolina State and Criticality Safety Engineer, Aaliyah Zuniga, said she was thrilled to experience the nuclear industry outside of the classroom and plans to move to South Carolina after accepting a full-time position in engineering.

"I was able to present my STEM-related work to Site employees, enhance my technical writing and grow my professional skills all in one summer," said Zuniga. "I am so thankful to have interned for an industry leader, for my mentors who supported me along the way and for the chance to start fresh after college in a new state with a full-time job."



SRNS Intern Ryan Lundqvist, presents his internship program experiences to fellow interns during the event.



SRNS Intern Aaliyah Zuniga presents her internship project validating SCALE 6.2.4, a code system, to other interns and management.

Nearly 50 student interns sign their way into full-service roles

“This program helped grow my confidence both inside and outside the office,” said Brantlea “Makenzi” Kuglar, Health and Safety Program Management Intern from University of South Carolina Palmetto College. “After completing my OSHA-10 and Edventures training, I have made safety a priority in my work and home life. I hope I can return to SRS in the future as a full-time employee.”

Over 100 interns completed the OSHA-10 construction certification which further emphasized the SRNS safety culture with lessons in hazard identification, avoidance, control and prevention. Students also learned the mission, vision and core values of the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF) after completing the “Edventures in Learning” workshop. Incorporating this training into the internship experience exposed students to potential job opportunities in support of SRPPF missions and the future state of SRS.

Ryan Fyalkowski, a rising senior at the University of Pittsburgh and HR Data and Analytics Intern, accepted a full-time position with SRNS and will relocate from Pittsburgh to South Carolina in December.

“The programming techniques I’ve learned from my mentors could have never been found in a textbook,” said Fyalkowski. “I’d recommend this program to anyone looking for the next big step forward in their career, and I can’t wait to support SRS missions in December.”

SRNS plans to expand and grow the internship program and apprenticeship occupations. This process will further improve the depth and value of each student’s experience at SRS as they transition from student to full-service employee.

“This group is part of the next generation that will aid in our transformation from EM to NNSA,” said Bryan Ortner, Manager, SRNS Talent Acquisition and Analytics. “SRNS has grown by 20% in the last three years in part due to the internship program that encourages students to come work for us and see how we keep the world safer through innovation, nuclear material operations, nuclear deterrence and environmental cleanup.”



SRNS engineering interns Luke Hamrick, left, and Luke Yarid, right, sign and accept their job offers with the Savannah River Site during the ‘Signing Day’ event.

Nearly 50 high-performing and qualifying interns from the SRNS Internship Program were recently offered a chance to turn full-service during the ‘Signing Day’ event held at SRS.

“By offering full-time positions to nearly 50 students today, we are closing major gaps and positively impacting our future workforce,” said Bryan Ortner, Manager, SRNS Talent Acquisition and Analytics. “From day one, these interns were fully engaged, brought fresh energy and shared new viewpoints that we are excited to see in a full-service capacity,” said Ortner.

In 2022, 117 interns were accepted into the program which has now grown to 180 this summer. Students engaged with a variety of disciplines within SRNS, including engineering, computer science, safety, business services, information technology and more.

Georgia Institute of Technology student, Hunter Holden, who was offered an Associate Engineering job, would recommend this program to any students looking to gain industry knowledge and networking opportunities with SRNS executives.

“From running tests in H Canyon to learning how to operate control systems, this experience was so impactful for my career,” said Holden. “It feels amazing to say that I have received a job offer from the hard work and dedication I’ve put into my studies and this internship program.”

The SRNS Internship Program creates opportunities for students to test drive a wide range of potential careers, getting a glimpse into life at SRS and finding a vocation that best suits their needs.

“The unique experiences and personal growth that happens throughout this program you won’t be able to find anywhere else,” said SRPPF intern Kiley Bridgmon, who will transition to full-service in December. “The benefits, compensation, mentors and positive work culture of the Site made the choice to accept the job offer a no-brainer.”

Beyond internships, SRNS is also strengthening the pipeline between students and full-service positions through 20 registered apprenticeship occupations. The future is focused on the growth of year-round apprenticeship occupations to help fill vacancies at SRS.

“This is a huge win for SRNS,” said Ortner. “We are always looking for new ways to advance these programs to attract early career talent and continue to be the industry leader in nuclear deterrence and national safety. These new hires will bring a new set of skills and potential that will benefit our missions for years to come.”



Justin Doman, Pu Modernization Technical Training Specialist, leads a group of SRNS interns in an interactive discussion using visual aid "maps" to illustrate the SRPPF mission.

Edventures training provides interns unique look at SRPPF mission

A large number of SRNS interns convened in the Collaboration Center this summer to take part in a unique training opportunity. Beginning in 2022, members of the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF) leadership team partnered with Edventures in Learning to offer a four-hour workshop quarterly to all new employees supporting the SRPPF Project and Plutonium (Pu) Programs. For the first time, all 180 SRNS interns from across the Site were invited to participate.

With the aid of storyboards and fact sheet cards, the course is led by a group of trained SRNS facilitators. Participants are divided into small groups and embark on a series of highly-interactive exercises and discussions with the goal of increasing awareness of how each SRPPF organization fits in the overall scope for achieving the SRPPF mission.

"We stress getting to know someone you had not met before, during each session," said Rick Burns, Deputy Manager of the Pu Modernization Program. "We discuss the support our employees give to the community and the support our community has given to the Site. We also cover that the Site is transitioning to NNSA landlordship, with an enduring mission requiring significant investments in Site infrastructure and providing opportunities for the next 50 years and beyond."

Hannah Evans gained firsthand SRPPF experience this summer as a Business Services Intern with the Pu Modernization Program. The rising Tennessee State University sophomore said the Edventures course reinforced the importance of collaboration between SRPPF and other departments on-site, as well as the larger community. "I learned about the relationship between SRS, SRPPF and the community," she said. "SRS makes sure to stay involved with the community and have a positive relationship with them."

"I think it was important to include the interns in this training to expose them to all of the opportunities with this mission and to show them how interconnected everyone on-site and across the complex is in ensuring [the] success of our NNSA mission," said Justin Doman, Pu Modernization Technical Training Specialist, who served as an Edventures facilitator. "These interns are the best and brightest students and the potential future of our mission on-site if they choose to join the workforce at SRS."

Richmond County educator completes shadowing opportunity

A local educator recently shadowed two SRNS engineers to obtain a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education Endorsement that will help bridge the gap between her students' high school classes and potential engineering careers at the Site.

Carla Biley, who teaches biology and forensics at Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School (RCTCM), will use the STEM Education Endorsement from Augusta University to open the door to new classes at RCTCM.

"Connecting with local educators is crucial in impacting the next generation of future engineers," said Eric Johnson, manager, SRNS Fire Protection Engineering (FPE). "A well-rounded engineer must not only be proficient in performing technical analysis, but also in effective communication, technical writing and working outside of their discipline. Shadowing opportunities help us provide information directly to instructors to take back to the classroom."

"This experience added extremely valuable skills to my teaching methods," said Biley. "Not only will I be able to introduce new classes at our school, but I can implement more problem-based learning techniques that I witnessed from SRNS engineers over the last two days."

Biley was able to get a glimpse into Process Controls & Automation Engineering (PC&AE) and FPE at the Site. The opportunity focused on the recommended courses for students interested in engineering, the school-to-work transition and the ways to bring these opportunities into the high school curriculum.

While shadowing the day-to-day operations of PC&AE, hosted by SRNS engineer Lindsay Minnick, Biley learned how engineers provide safe, secure and quality products in support of SRS missions.

"I'd love to see Ms. Biley implement more critical thinking and hands-on work in her classes after this experience," said Minnick. "Being an engineer means being a top-notch problem solver, sometimes thinking backwards and creating innovative solutions. Educators are key in guiding students to the one-of-a-kind engineering internships and apprenticeships at the Site."



Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School Instructor Carla Biley (right) job shadows SRNS Fire Protection Coordinator Program Lead David Flanders (left).



In a ceremony held on August 17, more than 100 apprentices—from SRNS, Battelle Savannah River Alliance and Savannah River Mission Completion—graduated from Aiken Technical College's Nuclear Fundamentals Program.

First Joint Cohort of SRS Operator Apprentices graduates from Aiken Tech

The first joint cohort of SRS Production Operator Apprentices recently graduated from Aiken Technical College's Nuclear Fundamentals Program, marking the first time three SRS contractors jointly held the program.

The Production Operator Apprentice program started as a partnership with SRNS, Aiken Technical College (Aiken Tech), Apprenticeship Carolina™ and the Lower Savannah Council of Governments. The eight-month program simultaneously allows for students to complete their classroom work and on-the-job training by allowing them to spend two days a week in the classroom and two days a week on-site. At the end of the program, participants will have earned a certificate in nuclear fundamentals.

"The apprenticeship program is a great model showing the impact of linking education and industry," said Aiken Tech President Forest E. Mahan, Ph.D. "Participants can earn a college credential, receive on-the-job training, network and be mentored throughout the program. It is a formula that prepares our students for success and continued career advancement for years to come."

For this round of operator apprentices, SRNS joined with Savannah River Mission Completion (SRMC), the liquid waste contractor at SRS, and the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) to offer over 100 openings for the program. Apprentices learned the basic qualifications of a production operator, including conduct of operations principles, radiation worker training and qualification, and how to perform shift rounds. Those who successfully completed the program were hired and put to work in areas across SRS.

On Aug. 17, a ceremony honored the over 100 graduates of the program. The program featured opening remarks from representatives of Aiken Tech and each of the three SRS contractors involved. Special guest speakers included Department of Energy-Savannah River Deputy Manager Edwin DeShong and South Carolina State Representative Bart Blackwell, along with three graduating participants.



"The apprenticeship program is a great model showing the impact of linking education and industry."

Forest E. Mahan,
Aiken Technical College President



SRNS Production Operator Apprentice Terrence Tillman was one of the three students to speak. "This is going to change my lifestyle. I will have more time to do things with my family," he said. "Knowing what the job entails and what its purpose is, I feel like I'm helping the country and the community."

SRNS received the largest class of operators in its history with 46 new hires set out to fill key roles in various SRNS facilities.

"At this moment, the eyes of the country truly are on the Savannah River Site as we continue to execute our vital national security and cleanup missions," said Carr. "Outside of the contributions that our apprentices will inevitably make in making the world safer, they can be also proud of the large impact their work at SRS will have in the community."

"SRNS currently has 22 apprenticeship programs," said Booboo Roberts, Program Manager for Apprenticeship and Pipeline Training. "It's an honor to be a part of helping our company prepare for the future and to help our students reach a better quality of life."

The Production Operator Apprenticeship Program is part of Apprenticeship Carolina.

2023 SRS United Way Campaign kicks off

Employees from SRNS, Battelle Savannah River Alliance (BSRA), Savannah River Mission Completion (SRMC) and Centerra gathered to celebrate the official kickoff of the 2023 SRS Employee United Way Campaign. Since the 1950s, SRS has continued the tradition of supporting United Way agencies with their volunteer and donation efforts.

The kickoff event, held on July 26, gave representatives from local United Way agencies the opportunity to engage with and educate employees on the various services they offer to the Central Savannah River Area. SRNS United Way Vice Chair Morgan Welch was pleased with the overall success of the event and said it was a great way for Site employees to learn more about how their donations toward the campaign can have an amplified impact on the community.

“This year’s United Way Kickoff was a huge success,” said Welch. “The United Way Agency representatives were able to educate employees on how their projects provide support to the community. Employees were also able to collect flyers and brochures with information about the different agencies and the projects they support within their communities.”

Over the next several months, SRNS, BSRA, SRMC and Centerra will host a variety of fundraising events to support their company goals that will contribute to the overall Site campaign goal of \$1.4 million.



United Way agencies across the CSRA passed out educational flyers and informed attendees of the many projects they support that benefit the local community.

“By supporting the SRS United Way campaign, you can make a huge impact on the lives of people in our community,” said Lewis Arthur, SRNS United Way Campaign Chair. “You never know who you will meet in your day-to-day life that has been positively impacted by the United Way. The impact could be as close as your nearest coworker.”

Arthur went on to say that the money raised and donated through the United Way agencies fund Critical Needs programs that assist in education, health, income and crisis situations.

“The SRS United Way campaign provides much needed funding to support local community programs,” said Lewis. “The money we are able to collect and donate through the United Way agencies funds great programs such as rent assistance, support groups, shelter and food services, rehabilitation services, job training and more.”



EM Operations workers give back

Members of the SRNS Environmental Management Operations (EMO) Department recently volunteered to install much-needed new flooring at the Area Churches Together Serving (ACTS) administrative building in downtown Aiken.

“As a non-profit, we are more interested in having the needs of our community met than how our administrative buildings look,” said ACTS Executive Director Suzanne Jackson. “However, the carpet in our building was almost 20 years old. We had ripped it up, with help from a team of SRNS employees and Project Vision, and were living with concrete floors until SRNS Operations volunteers stepped up to help.”

SRNS K Area Facility Manager Lee Sims serves on the Board of Directors at ACTS and brought the need to the EMO team. “We have several EMO employees who are skilled in these types of jobs and who like to give back,” he said. “I knew I could count on their help to make sure the ACTS employees had a safe and comfortable workspace so they could concentrate on their mission of helping community members in need. It was truly a team effort.”

In one day, the team laid enough flooring for a three-bedroom house.

“You all are such wonderful partners of ACTS and we can’t thank you enough for your hard work,” said Jackson. “The outcome is incredible and a huge improvement that will be appreciated by many.”

ACTS partners with churches, organizations, and individuals to help Aiken area people in need. They provide meals, clothing, furniture, utility assistance and medical assistance.



Environmental Management Operations volunteers



Charise “Nikki” Harper (center) and her daughters Karmen and Carlee recently took possession of their Aiken County Habitat for Humanity dream home in front of onlookers.

SRNS teams up to help fund Habitat for Humanity home

The two largest DOE contractors at SRS recently partnered to make the dream of owning a home come true for an Aiken family. Both companies contributed \$10,000 to pay for building materials to enable Aiken County Habitat for Humanity (Aiken County HFH) and their volunteers to construct the home for Charise “Nikki” Harper and her daughters Karmen and Carlee.

“This is house number 134 for us since our organization was founded in Aiken County in 1988,” said Arie Murphy, Aiken County HFH Executive Director. “This home would still be just a dream for Nikki if not for Savannah River Mission Completion and SRNS. Both companies have generously helped us with Habitat houses in the past.”

SRNS had a multi-year history of supporting many nonprofit agencies throughout the region.

“It was rewarding to be a part of this project,” said Shawna Lloyd, an SRNS employee who serves on the Aiken County HFH board of directors and was heavily involved in the months of making the Harper home a reality. “I’m so happy for this wonderful family.”

Lloyd noted that Aiken County HFH is only one of many ways SRNS works to give back to the communities near SRS. She mentioned examples such as United Way, Toys for Tots, Golden Harvest Food Bank and more than seven educational outreach programs.

Since 1988, Aiken County HFH has built new houses for families in Aiken County through their homeownership program.

“My heartfelt thanks go out to all the volunteers and suppliers as well as those who contributed their time, funds and materials towards the construction of this very special home,” said Murphy.

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“This home would still be just a dream for Nikki if not for Savannah River Mission Completion and SRNS. Both companies have generously helped us with Habitat houses in the past.”

Arie Murphy,
Aiken County Habitat for Humanity Executive Director

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The Aspiring Mid-Career Professionals (AMP) leadership conference, themed 'Leadership Under Pressure,' brought more than 160 attendees to the North Augusta Municipal Building for a full day of professional development.

'Leadership Under Pressure' AMP professional development conference

Last month, Aspiring Mid-Career Professionals (AMP) hosted "Leadership Under Pressure," an all-day professional development conference for members, which represented SRNS, Savannah River Mission Completion and Battelle Savannah River Alliance. The annual event brought more than 160 attendees to the North Augusta Municipal Building. Speakers included law practitioner Everett Chandler, Orano Federal Service board member Chuck Munns, SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer Sean Alford and leadership coach Ron Harvey.



Leadership coach Ron Harvey leads a discussion on professional development.

LIFT event promotes work-life balance



During the LIFT Work-Life Balance drop-in event, employees spoke with company representatives from the area and SRS organizations on wellness, nutrition, travel and fitness.

The SRS Leaders Investing For Tomorrow (LIFT) professional organization recently held a work-life balance event on-site to encourage healthy lifestyles and emphasize the importance of maintaining a stable relationship between your work and personal life.

The event created the opportunity for SRS employees to come together to enjoy healthy snacks and learn more about healthy eating, fitness, finance and more. Representatives from local organizations and from SRS shared useful information and offered their resources to assist employees in achieving their goals, whether it's trying to stay fit or planning for retirement.

"Educating and sharing this useful information with employees encourages healthy habits, raises awareness and provides valuable one-on-one time with resource representatives," said Kristy Moore LIFT President. "LIFT is passionate about the community and encouraging healthy lifestyles within it."

LIFT is a professional organization for SRS employees with 20 or more years of professional work experience.



Kedesha McClary

AT SRNS: Talent Acquisition Recruiter and Internship Coordinator

IN THE COMMUNITY: Student mentor, volunteer for Outreach Ministries, member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

THE PEOPLE OF SRNS

Kedesha McClary joined SRNS in 2022 and recently transitioned into a new role as Talent Acquisition Recruiter and Internship Coordinator for Workforce Services and Talent Management.

In her current role, McClary identifies qualified candidates during the hiring process and completes onboarding tasks. As the internship coordinator, she leads all aspects of the internship recruitment process and serves as a liaison for colleges and universities.

When asked what she enjoys most about working at SRNS, McClary stated, "I truly enjoy engaging with interns, attending career fairs and building new relationships with hiring managers. In my position, I have the wonderful opportunity to enhance employee well-being through Human Resources initiatives and promote the various wellness programs available on-site."

McClary holds a postgraduate degree in Human Resources and Project Management from the University of Phoenix. During her professional career, McClary also worked as a Financial Controller in the medical field and later transitioned into Operations Management.

For 23 years, McClary has been a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. a sisterhood dedicated to community outreach and service. She also volunteers her time with Outreach Ministries, a nonprofit devoted to feeding the homeless population. In the Richmond County School District, McClary serves as a mentor to students who face challenges with reading and anxiety.

She resides in Aiken, South Carolina, with her husband and three children. In her free time, McClary loves to sing, perform as a voiceover artist and travel.



Dependents learn about benefits

Over 130 employees and their families attended a Dependent Wellness Fair at the Enterprise Mill in Augusta, Georgia to showcase the various benefit options.

With Open Enrollment quickly approaching, they were able to engage one-on-one with the SRNS Benefits Team as well as with representatives from vendors across the company's benefits programs to gain a better understanding of their current benefit options and the changes that will take place in the fall.

Save the date: CSRA College Night

Area high school students will have a special opportunity to meet recruiters from more than 100 colleges and universities and win scholarships totaling \$15,000 at CSRA College Night, Thursday, Sept. 14, 5-8:30 p.m., at the James Brown Arena, Augusta, Georgia. Admission is free and open to the public.



We make the world **safer.**

SRNS

Developing innovative approaches to deliver on our environmental commitments and nuclear materials challenges

Supplying products and services necessary to maintain the nation's nuclear deterrent

Securing nuclear materials to prevent unwanted proliferation

Transforming nuclear materials into assets and stable wastefoms



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